

Doctor of Ministry  
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary  
DMIN 740 History and Theology of Christian Spirituality  
Asynchronous: January 4-8, 2021... see schedule below  
January 19-21, 2021 (9am-12pm and 1-4pm CST) January 22 (9 am – 1 pm)

### **Course Instructor**

Dr. Amy Oden

Office Hours: by appointment

Independent Scholar, Early Church History and Spirituality

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### **Course Description**

Focuses on the history of Christian spirituality, examining the theological assumptions that have shaped that history, including doctrines of incarnation, the human person, soteriology and epistemology. Students will do spiritual practices and reflect theologically on practice.

### **Learning Goals**

As a result of participation in this course, students should be able to:

- Identify and describe signature streams of spirituality within the history of Christianity
- Identify and articulate the intersections of theological, social and ecclesial contexts in the development of Christian spirituality
- Recognize themselves and their ministry contexts within various traditions of Christian spirituality
- Engage foundational theological doctrines for the Christian spiritual life
- Practice spiritual disciplines for personal and communal spiritual formation
- Develop and demonstrate research skills for further study of Christian spirituality.

### **Required Reading**

Richard Foster, *Streams of Living Water: Celebrating the Great Traditions of the Christian Faith*. HarperOne, reprint 2001. \$12.00

Barbara Holmes, *Joy Unspeakable: Contemplative Practices in the Black Church*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Fortress Press, 2017. \$20.00

James K. A. Smith, chapters 1 and 2 from *You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit*. Brazos Press, 2016. Pdf on Moodle

Marjorie Thompson, “Putting It All Together: Developing a Rule of Life,” chapter 10 in *Soul Feast*. Westminster John Knox, revised 2014. Pdf on Moodle

Daniel Wolpert, *Creating a Life With God: The Call of Ancient Prayer Practices*. Upper Room Books, 2003. \$14.00

See end of syllabus for additional historical figures to contribute to your final paper.

## Course Requirements

### I. Pre-Class Assignments due midnight January 8, 2021

**Read** Foster, Holmes and Smith (2 chapters).

**Foster** paper, 2 ½ - 4 pages total. Address these questions in sequence:

- A. Which stream in Foster was most important in your early formation? (1/2–1 page)
- B. In which stream do you currently feel most at home and why? (1-2 pages)
- C. Which stream speaks most deeply to your current context of ministry and why? (1-2 pages)

Due by midnight January 8, 2021

**Holmes** paper, 4-6 pages, 12 point font, double-spaced), using the following format

- A. Identify 3 key points in the first paragraph of your paper as key take-aways you want to remember from the book
- B. Address each key point in turn by showing at least 1 place in the book the key point is expressed, then write the key point in your own words, followed by a paragraph that both explains the key point and identifies its significance for you. Do this for each of the 3 key points. (3-4 pages)
- C. Respond to question: How does this book speak to my understanding of Christian spirituality in my current ministry context? (1-2 pages)  
Do not use other sources. Due midnight, January 8, 2021

**Smith** paper, 4-5 pages total. Use this format:

- A. In conversation with chapter 1, explain what Smith means by “To be human is to be animated and oriented by some vision of ‘the good life’” (pp. 11-12). (1/2 – 1 page)
- B. Describe how you are “animated and oriented by some vision of ‘the good life’.” What does this look like for you as a person and as a pastor/leader? (1-2 pages)
- C. In conversation with chapter 2, identify 1 or 2 significant “rival liturgies” that shape your desire at this point in your life. (2 pages)  
Do not use other sources. Due by midnight January 8, 2021.

- II. **Note:** Due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, class will not meet on Monday, January 18. To replace these contact hours, students will participate in asynchronous online learning January 4-8 on Moodle.

### III. January 19-22 Class Meeting Requirements

**Attend.** You are required to attend all class sessions January 19-22, 2021 (9am-12pm and 1-4pm CST). Your presence is essential to our learning in this class. You bring experiences and gifts that contribute to course content and enhance the learning of all. Four or more hours of absence this week will result in failing the course.

**Read** Wolpert

**Participate.** The Holy Spirit is at work in our learning together, renewing our minds toward Christlikeness and transforming our lives toward the reign of God. As gathered community, our reading, discussion and in-class spiritual practices are all opportunities to love God with all our hearts, souls, minds and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. We count on each of us to fully “show up” to participate in class learning through curiosity about material and each other, listening and speaking.

#### IV. Post-Class Assignments

**Read** Thompson, “Putting It All Together: Developing a Rule of Life,” chapter 10 in *Soul Feast*.

**Rule of Life** paper. After reading Thompson’s chapter, create a 1 page rule of life. Identify 1 spiritual practice for each of these timeframes: daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, yearly. Be as concrete as you can in stating the practice, the time, place. Due February 7, 2020.

**Final Paper.** Write a 8-10 page research paper over one stream, figure, tradition or practice of Christian spirituality, broadly construed. Select one of the historical primary sources below or another historic/wisdom figure mentioned in Foster to contribute to your final paper. Then, in an additional 1-2 pages, explore the intersection of your topic with your own spiritual life. 9-12 pages total. Due by midnight Feb 19, 2021.

**Specifications for All Papers.** Papers should be double-spaced, 12 point font, with proper grammar and spelling. All quotations must be cited (Turabian or MLA) to avoid plagiarism. See the Garrett Style Guide posted on Moodle course site. Use inclusive and expansive language. Strong papers will pay attention to the assigned questions and format, demonstrate careful reading, stay focused, and be organized and clear. Late papers will be dropped one letter grade for each day late.

**Assessment/Grading** Final grades are calculated as follows

Foster Essay	20%
Holmes Paper	20%
Smith Paper	20%
Rule of Life	20%
Final Paper	20%

Select one of the following or another historic/wisdom figure mentioned in Foster to contribute to your final paper:

**Historical Primary Sources on Christian Spirituality** (choose ONE).

12<sup>th</sup> century description of *Lectio Divina*:

978-0879077488 \$18.95 Guigo II, The Ladder of Monks in *The Ladder of Monks and Twelve Meditations*, trans. with intro. by Edmund Colledge and James Walsh. Cistercian Publications, 1981.

16<sup>th</sup> century depth study on stages of contemplative prayer:

978-0935216806 \$26.95 Teresa of Avila, *The Interior Castle: Study Edition*, trans. Kavanaugh and Rodriguez. New York: Paulist Press, 1980.

16<sup>th</sup> century retreat guide using life, teaching, crucifixion, and resurrection narratives of Jesus:

978-0965057943 \$5.96 *The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius*, trans. Anthony Mottola. New York: Image Doubleday, 1964, 1989, 1998.

20<sup>th</sup> century classic work on Jewish Sabbath:

978-0374529758 \$8.50 Abraham Joshua Heschel, *The Sabbath: its meaning for modern man*. New York: Farrer, Strauss and Giroux, 1951, 2005.

14<sup>th</sup> century writing from which Centering Prayer is derived:

978-0385030977 \$11.83 *The Cloud of Unknowing and Book of Privy Counseling*, trans. William Johnston. New York: Image reissue, 1996.

19<sup>th</sup> century Russian Orthodox description of The Jesus Prayer:

978-0060630171 \$11.64 *The Way of a Pilgrim and the Pilgrim Continues his Way*, trans. R. M. French. New York: HarperOne, 2010.

6<sup>th</sup> century Rule for monastic life:

978-0385009485 \$9.54 Benedict of Nursia, *The Rule of St. Benedict*, trans. and intro. by Anthony C. Meisel and M. L. del Mastro. New York: Image Doubleday, 1975.

20<sup>th</sup> century description of the renewal of the prayer labyrinth as a spiritual practice:

978-1594481819 \$16.00 Lauren Artress, *Walking a Sacred Path: Rediscovering the Labyrinth as a Spiritual Practice*. New York: Riverhead, 1995, 2006.

20<sup>th</sup> century devotional classic:

978-0807010235 \$17.38 Howard Thurman, *Meditations of the Heart*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1953, 1999.

## Course Schedule

January 4-8 Asynchronous on Moodle: Contemplative Stream, Spiritual Practices

January 19-22	<u>Morning</u> 9am-12pm	<u>Afternoon</u> 1-4pm
Tuesday Jan 19	Welcome, Introductions Foster, Streams Theological Foundations: Tradition, Revelation	Evangelical Stream Spiritual Practice Reflection on Practice
Wednesday Jan 20	Smith, Human Person Social Justice Stream Theological Foundations: Epistemology, Anthropology Holmes, Papers	Spiritual Practice Reflection on Practice
Thursday Jan 21	Incarnational Stream Apophatic/Kataphatic Spirituality Charismatic Stream Rule of Life	Theological Foundations: Incarnation and Soteriology Spiritual Practice Reflection on Practice
Friday Jan 22	Guest Lecturer: Dr. Dwight Judy Spanish Mystics Program Info, Wrap Up	